



Principal's Newsletter 9 – Term 3 2026

21 September 2026

Kia ora koutou

South Island Geography Field trip (18 September to 23 September)

On Friday 18 September, 21 Year 12 Geography students and Bevan Hunter (HOF Social Sciences), Andy Lock (Physical Education and Health teacher) and Lisa Murphy (Director of Sport) headed away on their Level 2 Geography Field trip. Highlights will include the Blue Penguin Colony; Moeraki Boulders; Macraes Mine; Clyde Dam; Arrowtown; Kawarau Bridge Bungy and Zip rides; Queenstown Gondola and Luge; Wanaka; Lindis Pass; Omarama; Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park; Benmore Dam; Lake Tekapo; Antarctica Centre Activities.

Visual Arts Japan Trip (19 September to 5 October)

On Saturday 19 September, 30 Year 11 to Year 13 Visual Arts students and six staff members, Catherine Sleyer (Art teacher and Trip Leader), Lisa Martin (Deputy Principal), Graham Hall (Assistant Head of Performing and Visual Arts), Kaye Coombs (Art teacher); Glen Hutchins (Art and Technology teacher), Lee Su'a (ESOL teacher and parent) and four parents headed off on a 17 day Visual Arts trip to Japan. The group will carry out all sorts of wonderful artistic and cultural activities and complete amazing visual diaries as they travel between Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Naoshima Island, Kyoto, Osaka, Kyoto, Ngaizumi (Sister City Exchange and Homestay Experience), and then Tokyo again before returning to New Zealand on Monday 5 October.

Next Gen 27 (Naples, Italy – 20 September to 28 September)

On Sunday 20 September, Jenny Langrish (Deputy Principal), Lucas Munn (Head Boy), Isla Jones (Deputy Head Girl), Teri-Ellen Karipa (Head of Awa) and Achilles Paikea (Head of Moana) headed to Naples as representatives of the only school throughout New Zealand chosen to participate in the fully funded Next Gen 27 at the same time as the preliminary regattas of the America's Cup taking place in Naples from 22 September to 25 September.

The initiative is supported by the Italian Ministry of Education and Merit and is formally recognised by the Italian Ministry as a vital contribution to fostering international educational dialogue through a series of student and teacher workshops.

National Smokefree Rockquest Solo Finals and National Smokefree Tangata Beats Finals

Congratulations to Sophie Toyne who was awarded best vocalist in the country at the National Smokefree Rockquest Solo finals. Sophie also won \$500 for her victory.

Massive congratulations also to Whanganui High School band, Ngā Hau e Whā, who won the 2026 National Smokefree Tangata Beats finals. Band members are: Phoenix Campbell, Rangitaumata Hayward, Jacob Huang, Arne Leiva Benegas, Moata Leiva Benegas, Giovanni Maraku, Amelia Muir, Alijah Ngaronga, Manaia Takiari and Cazna Vaetoru. They won \$3,000 worth of music equipment from the Rock Shop and a \$10,000 NZ on Air recording, video and promotion package. Well done!

Whanganui High School Uniform & Personal Presentation Information

As outlined in my Newsletters on 2 April and 14 August 2026, a quick reminder that on 30 March the Board passed a resolution to remove sandals completely from our Uniform Sets and that all students will be required to wear covered plain black leather traditional style school shoes from the **beginning of Term 4 onwards**. Please refer to our 'Uniform & Personal Presentation Information' booklet (see <https://www.whanganuihigh.school.nz/info-for-parents/uniform/> for all our relevant details about uniform and personal presentation expectations.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School